



BOROUGH OF BLYTH

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1956

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

"DINSDALE"

MARINE TERRACE

BLYTH

NORTHUMBERLAND





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## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman :* COUNCILLOR RUTHERFORD.

*Vice-Chairman :* COUNCILLOR BREADIN.

### THE MAYOR

ALDERMAN	TANSEY.	COUNCILLOR	MARLEY.
„	THOMPSON.	„	POTTS.
COUNCILLOR	ALLISON.	„	PURVIS.
„	BARKER.	„	ROBERTSON.
„	BETHAM.	„	ROBSON.
„	DARGUE.	„	SMITH.
„	ELDER.	„	SUMMERS.
„	GILHESPY.	„	TAYLOR.
„	HEPPLE.	„	TURNBULL.
„	KENNEDY.	„	TWEDDLE.

## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1956

*Medical Officer of Health* ... A. DONALDSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Senior Public Health Inspector* ... G. A. GILL, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspector* N. F. GODFREY, M.A.P.H.I.  
(Resigned 31/1/57).

*Additional Public Health Inspector* W. ALLAN, M.A.P.H.I.

*Clerk* ... C. FELLOWS.

*Shorthand Typist* ... B. I. REDBURN.

*Rodent Officer* ... B. WADE.

## BOROUGH OF BLYTH

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### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Borough during the year 1956.

The population again increased by 50 to 34,470. The Birth Rate rose from 16.9 per 1,000 population to 18.1, the number of births rising by 39 to 624.

The Infant Mortality rate returned to a much more satisfactory figure of 17.6 per 1,000 live births. The Death Rate increased slightly to 10.7 per 1,000 population.

In spite of this latter reverse the health of the Borough continues to improve. The number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis fell from 69 in 1955 to 46 in 1956. This may well be the first indication of the value of the Mass X-Ray Survey of 1955. This improvement is also due in great measure to the intensive work carried out by the Chest Clinic, especially in contact tracing and also to the degree of co-operation that exists between the Chest Clinic and the Health Department. Housing still remains the outstanding problem in Blyth and this has been commented on in the report.

In order to maintain the standard of the work of the Health Department it is necessary to have adequate staff and a staff that is happy. I think that it is false economy to employ a staff on the minimum grades of salary. Whatever the cause it is a fact that the North is not an attractive part of the country in which to work when compared with the warmer and softer conditions of the South. I have no

doubt that only by offering slightly higher grades of salary will staff be retained, and the essential continuity of the work of the department maintained. Interruptions and gaps caused by resignations which require replacements can be a costly business and the work of the department can suffer accordingly.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chairman and the Members of the Health Committee for their interest during the year and the staff of the Health Department for a year's work well done.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER DONALDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.



## HOUSING

In 1954 when the town map was under discussion, the Health Department was involved, in so far as they had to survey the housing accommodation of the town with a view to assessing the life of certain sub-standard property, and to advise on the best method of dealing with it.

It was reported that there were approximately 440 houses which would have to be dealt with as sub-standard property during the years 1954-59.

It was hoped that the bulk of this property could be dealt with under Slum Clearance, but it has been found to be a long and difficult job obtaining final approval for these schemes, and in fact greater progress would have been achieved, in all probability, by dealing with these properties individually.

It must not be expected when these 440 properties are finally dealt with, that Blyth's housing troubles are at an end.

It has been suggested that the overall picture in Blyth compares more favourably with the larger cities. This would appear to me to be a completely negative and unprogressive attitude and one to be deplored—rather should the slogan be “only the best for Blyth.”

I am prepared to believe that medical officers and public health inspectors have varying standards, but I cannot agree that they are so divergent as to make the slums of a small borough appear as habitable dwellings in a larger city.

The 1951 census credits Blyth with approximately 10,000 houses. Of these—

1,400	had no piped water supply
1,600	had no kitchen sink and
3,800	had no bath.

In 1956 a considerable number of these houses had been demolished and some had been improved, but the estimated figures for houses without these amenities today are—

No piped water supply	1,000
No kitchen sink	1,200
No bath	3,400

In view of these figures it is difficult to say that the Blyth people are satisfactorily housed. The methods of remedying these deficiencies are as follows :

1. Condemning such property, either as individual houses or by Clearance Areas, and re-housing the tenants in new council houses. (This method would apply only to property considered unfit for human habitation and not capable of being made fit).
2. Persuading owners to carry out improvements. Generous grants must be given in these cases. If a fit house is obtained, with modern amenities, the grant can be looked upon as a sound investment.
3. Purchase of border-line property by the Council for conversion into modern terrace houses or flats.

No matter which method is adopted, the expenditure of money is inevitable.

I feel that considerable amount of border-line property in Blyth is deteriorating from lack of purposeful planning.

Blyth has done well as far as new houses are concerned, but much still remains to be done and there is no room for complacency.

## **POLIOMYELITIS**

This is the disease which has hit the newspaper headlines, and the wide publicity it has received is probably out of all proportion to its real seriousness to the public at large. Deaths from poliomyelitis are measured in hundreds, but deaths from tuberculosis are still measured in thousands.

Undoubtedly it must be taken seriously. The crippling paralyses that are the legacies of its victims are very real indeed, and every method should be used to eradicate it.

Some comfort may be gained from the fact that for every case of paralysis diagnosed there will be a hundred infected who will suffer little more than an influenzal attack.

There are no drugs which can be used to fight this disease—no known “cure.” All that can be done is to try to prevent the spread of paralysis and its deformities. Then follows the long fight of rehabilitation, to ensure that the maximum use can be obtained from the withered, crippled limbs.

Although no specific remedy has been effective against this disease, it has been possible, after many years of research, to produce a vaccine which, it is hoped, will bestow an artificial immunity against poliomyelitis. Like most



new weapons in medicine, this vaccine was not without its initial teething troubles. Mishaps occurred in U.S.A., but progress was made gradually, until in 1955 over ten million vaccinations were carried out in U.S.A. and one million in Canada without mishap. It has proved that the number of cases occurring in the vaccinated is one-fifth of that in the unprotected.

A similar vaccine is now being prepared and used in Great Britain, and in 1956 some 300,000 children were vaccinated. The tests that the British vaccine have to pass are more stringent than those in U.S.A., and its safety can be assured. It is due to these careful tests that the supplies in this country are so limited. It is hoped that the effect of this vaccine on poliomyelitis will be as effective as the prophylactic vaccine was against diphtheria.

As it may be some time before sufficient supplies become available the following rules are worth noting.

1. Pay particular attention to personal cleanliness, and especially make sure that the hands are washed after using the toilet and before handling food.
2. If the disease is prevalent, avoid crowded places and abstain from strenuous exertion, e.g., athletics and swimming.

Remember the disease is spread in much the same way as dysentery—from the bowel of an infected person to the hands, then to the mouth, food, cooking utensils or other household articles.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

The number of cases of tuberculosis (all types) notified during the year was 52. This is 27 fewer than 1955, but 3 more than 1954.

New cases are still being discovered, but it would seem that we are as far from pin-pointing the sources of infection of these cases as we were several years ago.

Contact tracing may reveal the odd case which is possibly a primary source of infection, but all too frequently the results are negative. This is the case both at home and in employment. It is difficult to say at what point, contact tracing should cease. Taken beyond the

immediate family circle means a heavy drain on the resources of chest clinic and health department, in staff and time. It also raises the possibility that a case traced in this way may have no connection with the original notification, although the discovery of another case allows further contact tracing to develop. It is also true to say that the further one spreads from the original notified case the more difficult it is to obtain the co-operation necessary to complete an investigation.

Fear and apathy are two of the most difficult obstacles to overcome in dealing with tuberculosis ; fear of what may be discovered ; apathy or indifference as long as the disease is not causing any inconvenience. It is strange how inconvenient the pursuit of good health can become.

The most difficult group to deal with as far as chest X-Ray or sputum testing is concerned, is the elderly. The grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles and aunts with or without a " Chronic Bronchitis " offer a major challenge to the patience and ingenuity of chest physicians, family doctors and health visitors.

I feel certain that the majority of cases occurring in Blyth owe their primary infection to a well-loved, affectionate relative, and I cannot see the answer to the problem. Persuasion by the general practitioner is probably the only answer.

The facilities for complete examination with the minimum of upset exist in Blyth. There is a static miniature X-Ray apparatus and the ambulance service can be used for the elderly, but the difficulty of closing the gap between potential tuberculosis carrier who is unexamined, and the diagnosed case, is still to be overcome.

This is still the most killing infectious disease with over 6,000 deaths to its discredit in England and Wales in 1955 ! While it holds this position, no effort must be spared by doctors, nurses and health visitors to combat it in every possible way.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

*Area.*—No change.

*Acreage.*—6,487.

*Population.*—(Registrar-General's Estimate) .. 34,470

*Rate Value.*—(1st April, 1956) .. .. £296,850

*Product of a Penny Rate* (estimated) .. .. £1,142

*Total Number of Dwellinghouses in Borough*—  
(1st April, 1956) 10,460

### Extracts from Vital Statistics

*Comparability Factor.*—Births 1.00. Deaths 1.28.

	1956	1955
The uncorrected birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population .. ..	18.1	16.9
The standardised birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population .. ..	18.1	16.9
The crude death rate per 1,000 estimated home population .. ..	10.7	10.3
The standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated home population .. ..	13.6	12.1
The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. ..	17.6	35.8
The neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births .. ..	16.0	25.6
The still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births .. ..	25.6	31.4
The tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 estimated home population .. ..	0.20	0.17
The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births .. ..	Nil	1.6

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
No. of live births...	858	737	708	660	674	618	618	638	585	624
No. of deaths ...	469	362	422	417	453	352	335	354	357	370
Excess of births over deaths...	389	375	286	243	221	266	283	284	228	254

### Infantile Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates for the Ten Years 1947-1956

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Deaths ... ..	45	40	28	31	21	11	18	11	21	11
Infant Mortality Rate...	52.4	54.2	39.5	46.9	31.1	17.8	29.1	17.2	35.8	17.6

## Causes of Infant Deaths

No.	Cause	Sex	Age	Avoidable or not
1	Prematurity ... ..	F	2 Days	Not
2	Prematurity ... ..	M	2 Hours	Not
3	Neo-Natal Anoxia ... ..	M	2 Days	Not
4	Intracranial Birth Injury ... ..	M	11 Hours	Not
5	Prematurity ... ..	M	1 Day	Not
6	Intracranial Birth Injury ... ..	M	1 Day	Not
7	Broncho-pneumonia ... ..	F	5 Months	Yes
8	Prematurity ... ..	M	7 Hours	Not
9	Hydrocephalus ... ..	F	1 Hour	Not
10	Hydrocephalus ... ..	M	5 Days	Not
11	Pulmonary Haem. and Prematurity ... ..	F	1 Day	Not

## Infant Deaths

<i>Possibly Avoidable</i>		<i>Unavoidable</i>	
Broncho-pneumonia ..	1	Prematurity ..	5
		Neo-natal Anoxia ..	1
		Intracranial Birth Injury ..	2
		Hydrocephalus ..	2
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1		10
	<hr/>		<hr/>



## COMMENTS ON STATISTICS

### POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimated mid-1956 population was 34,470, an increase of 50 over 1955.

### UNCORRECTED BIRTH RATE

The uncorrected birth rate was 18.1 per 1,000 population—an increase of 1.2 per 1,000. The number of live births rose from 585 in 1955 to 624 in 1956.

### CRUDE DEATH RATE

The crude death rate was 10.7 per 1,000 population—an increase of 0.4 per 1,000 over 1955.

### STILL BIRTH RATE

The still birth rate was 25.6 per 1,000 live births. There were 16 still births during the year.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during 1956.

### INFANT MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate fell from 35.8 per 1,000 live births in 1955 to 17.6. There were 11 infant deaths and of these 10 occurred in the first four weeks of life. This is a most satisfactory state in view of the increased number of births in 1956. Five deaths were due to prematurity and two to congenital defects.

This low index reflects the care and attention given by general practitioners and County Clinics to the ante-natal care of expectant mothers.

### DEATHS

There were 370 deaths in the Borough during 1956 which is an increase of 13 over 1955. There were 227 deaths over the age of 65, 116 male and 111 female. The commonest cause of death was again cardio vascular disease which accounted for 97 males and 69 females—a total of 166 or 44.9%. This is a decrease of 31 from 1955.



# Causes of Death, 1956

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
002	Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	3	3	6
010	Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	1	—	1
143	Malignant Neoplasm of The Floor of Mouth	1	—	1
150	"          "          " Oesophagus ...	2	—	2
151	"          "          " Stomach ...	6	6	12
153	"          "          " Large Bowel ...	6	5	11
154	"          "          " Rectum ...	1	1	2
155	"          "          " Gall Bladder ...	1	2	3
157	"          "          " Pancreas ...	3	—	3
162	"          "          " Bronchus and Lung	13	1	14
170	"          "          " Breast ...	—	1	1
171	"          "          " Cervix Uteri ...	—	2	2
172	"          "          " Corpus Uteri ...	—	2	2
175	"          "          " Ovary ...	—	2	2
176	"          "          " Vulva ...	—	1	1
177	"          "          " Prostate ...	2	—	2
179	"          "          " Scrotum ...	1	—	1
180	"          "          " Kidney ...	1	—	1
181	"          "          " Bladder ...	2	3	5
190	"          "          " Skin ...	1	—	1
194	"          "          " Thyroid ...	—	1	1
199	"          "          " Unspecified ...	1	—	1
200	Lymphosarcoma ... ..	1	—	1
201	Hodgkin's Disease ... ..	1	—	1
204	Lymphatic Leukaemia ... ..	—	1	1
241	Asthma ... ..	2	1	3
260	Diabetes Mellitus ... ..	—	1	1
272	Hypopituitarism ... ..	—	1	1
292-4	Aplastic Anaemia ... ..	—	1	1
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	13	14	27
332	Cerebral Embolism or Thrombosis ...	14	12	26
334	Hypertensive Encephalopathy ... ..	—	2	2
345	Disseminated Sclerosis ... ..	—	1	1
350	Paralysis Agitans ... ..	—	1	1
352	Quadriplegia ... ..	1	—	1
353-1	Epilepsy ... ..	1	—	1
420	Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease ... ..	—	2	2
420-1	Coronary Thrombosis ... ..	47	24	71
420-2	Angina Pectoris ... ..	1	—	1
422	Cardio-Vascular Degeneration ... ..	19	24	43
422-1	Myocardial Degeneration with Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	1	2	3
422-2	Myocardial Degeneration with Senility ...	10	9	19
433-1	Auricular Fibrillation ... ..	2	—	2
434-1	Congestive Heart Failure ... ..	9	5	14
434-2	Left Ventricular Failure ... ..	3	3	6
434-3	Cor Pulmone ... ..	4	—	4
441	Malignant Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—	1
465	Pulmonary Embolism ... ..	—	2	2
490	Lobar Pneumonia ... ..	1	1	2
491	Broncho-pneumonia ... ..	6	5	11
502	Chronic Bronchitis ... ..	3	1	4
518	Lung Abscess ... ..	1	—	1
522	Hypostatic Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	2
526	Bronchiectasis ... ..	1	—	1
540	Peptic Ulcer ... ..	1	—	1
550-1	Acute Appendicitis with Perforation ...	—	1	1
570	Intestinal Obstruction ... ..	—	1	1
570-1	Paralytic Ileus ... ..	—	1	1
581	Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	—	1	1
587	Acute Pancreatitis ... ..	—	1	1
592	Uraemia ... ..	1	—	1
593	Nephritis ... ..	2	3	5

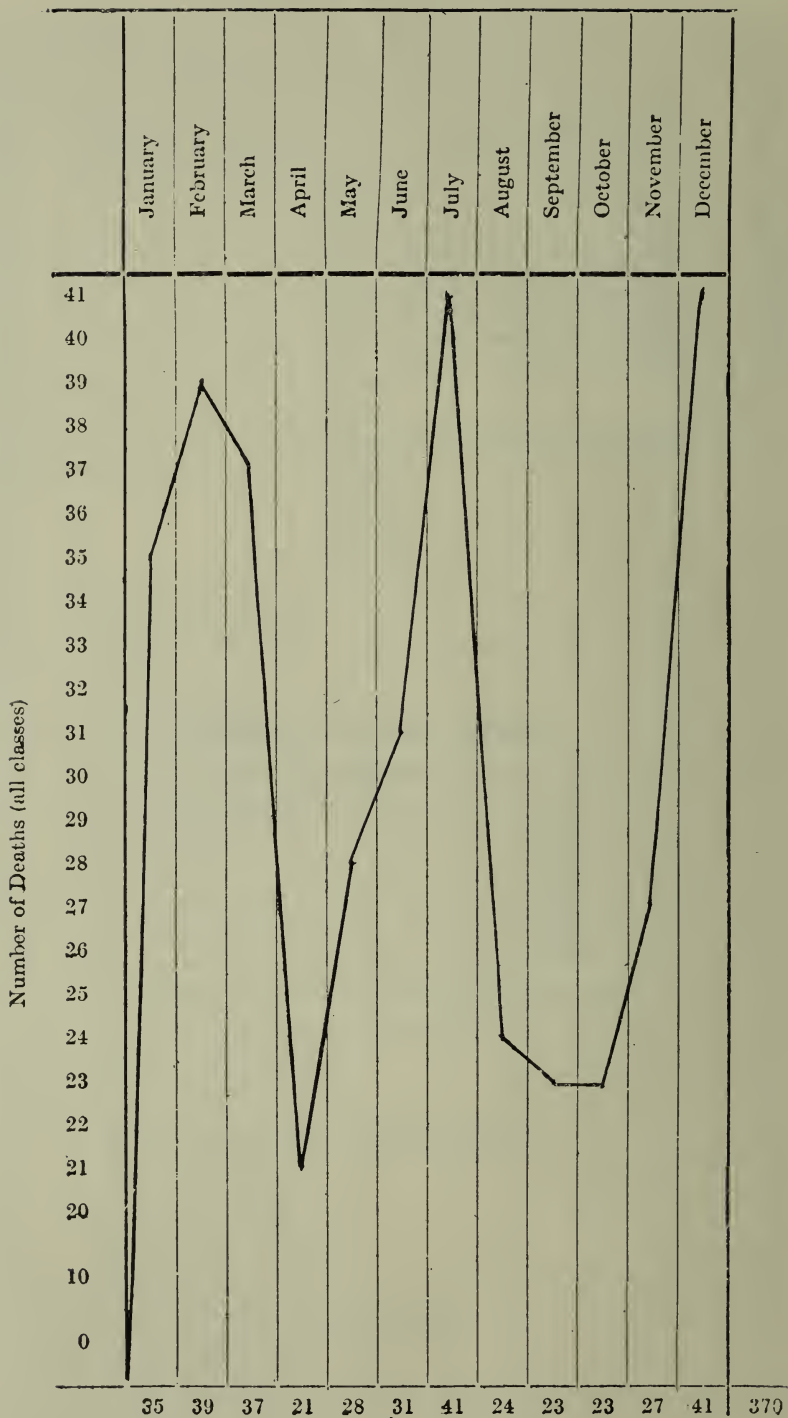
# Causes of Death, 1956—continued

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
610	Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	2	—	2
752	Hydrocephalus ... ..	1	1	2
760	Intracranial Birth Injury ... ..	2	—	2
762	Post-Natal Asphyxia ... ..	1	1	2
776	Prematurity ... ..	3	2	5
794	Senility ... ..	—	2	2
E802	Killed by Railway Engine ... ..	1	—	1
E840	Street Accident to Pedestrian ... ..	1	—	1
E857	Crush between Ship and Pier ... ..	1	—	1
E890	Accidental Coal Gas Poisoning ... ..	—	1	1
E910	Crush by Fall of Stone ... ..	1	—	1
E972	Suicide by Coal Gas Poisoning ... ..	1	—	1
E974	Suicide by Hanging ... ..	5	—	5
		212	158	370
	Deaths over 65 years of age ... ..	116	111	227

## Deaths 1951-56 (1-4 years)

Year	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	Total
1951	—	2	1	—	3
1952	—	—	1	1	2
1953	1	—	2	1	4
1954	4	—	—	1	5
1955	—	—	1	—	1
1956	—	—	—	—	—

# DEATHS, 1956



# ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1956

## Statistics for the Borough of Blyth for the last ten years

Year	Popu- lation	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infantile Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Death Rate	No. of Cases of Infectious Disease Notified							
									Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Acute Poliomyelitis	Bowel Complaints Dysentery, etc.	Tuberculosis	
															Pul.	Non- Pul.
1947	33,920	469	13.8	858	25.2	45	52.4	33.4	256	29	122	23	1	—	47	11
1948	33,980	362	10.6	737	21.7	40	54.2	20.8	673	89	182	10	1	3	57	19
1949	35,300	422	11.9	708	20.0	28	39.5	24.0	352	39	98	1	1	—	72	12
1950	35,280	417	11.8	660	18.8	31	46.9	31.8	652	44	282	—	4	5	84	8
1951	34,110	453	13.2	674	19.7	21	31.1	14.8	490	57	93	—	—	1	88	2
1952	34,010	352	10.3	618	18.2	11	17.8	9.7	346	65	45	—	1	6	96	7
1953	34,270	335	9.7	618	18.0	18	29.1	14.5	747	83	190	—	—	3	62	11
1954	34,370	354	10.2	638	19.8	11	17.2	14.1	50	34	73	—	1	24	44	5
1955	34,420	357	10.3	585	16.8	21	35.8	25.6	853	11	65	—	3	108	69	10
1956	34,470	370	10.7	624	18.1	11	17.6	16.0	63	12	177	—	2	8	46	6

# TUBERCULOSIS, 1956

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-5	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
6-10	6	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
11-15	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
16-20	4	5	—	—	1	—	—	—
21-25	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-30	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
31-35	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
36-40	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
41-45	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
46-50	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
51-55	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56-60	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
61-65	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	26	20	3	3	3	3	1	—
Grand Totals	46		6		6		1	

## Statement of Tuberculosis—31st December, 1956

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTALS.
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on Register at commencement of year ... ..	222	17	236	30	505
(b) Number of new cases notified under "Regulations of 1930" for the first time during the year ... ..	6	—	3	1	10
(c) Number of cases restored to Register having been removed previous to 1956 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to the Register and brought to notice otherwise than by formal notification ... ..	2	—	1	—	3
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year ...	6	—	4	1	11
(f) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year ... ..	224	17	236	30	507



## Tuberculosis, 1944-1956

Table showing the number of Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases notified in the respective years and the number of deaths which have occurred, and the time elapsed from notification to death.

Year	Number of Notifications	Number of Deaths	Period within which death occurred							
			Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-6 years	7-8 years	Over 10 yrs.
1956	46	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1954	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	62	8	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
1952	96	9	6	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
1951	88	15	7	—	2	3	3	—	—	—
1950	84	11	7	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
1949	72	14	5	3	5	1	—	—	—	—
1948	56	19	7	8	3	1	—	—	—	—
1947	47	25	6	12	3	1	1	1	1	—
1946	55	26	21	2	2	—	—	1	—	—
1945	56	21	12	7	1	—	—	1	—	—
1944	58	28	5	5	6	7	1	—	1	3
	833	179	84	41	27	13	6	3	2	3

## Tuberculosis, 1947-1956

Year			All forms of Tuberculosis notifications per year	Number of Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1947	...	...	58	37	1.1
1948	...	...	76	35	1.0
1949	...	...	84	27	0.76
1950	...	...	92	17	0.48
1951	...	...	90	23	0.56
1952	...	...	103	13	0.38
1953	...	...	73	14	0.40
1954	...	...	49	8	0.23
1955	...	...	79	6	0.17
1956	...	...	52	7	0.20

## Tuberculosis Case Rate per 1,000 Population

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
8.1	7.5	8.1	9.7	10.2	12.9	14.2	13.9	15.2	14.7

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1956

There was a total of 347 cases of infectious disease notified during 1956.

### MEASLES

There were 63 notifications of the disease. Undoubtedly there will be repercussions in 1957.

### WHOOPING COUGH

There were 177 cases of whooping cough notified. This, for Blyth, constitutes a sizeable epidemic. In 11 cases the patients had received prophylactic vaccine against the infection. Four had received courses of whooping cough vaccine, but two of these had been completed over six years ago and one over four years ago. Seven had received courses of combined diphtheria-pertussis vaccine. In these cases the intervals between the final inoculation and notification of the disease varied from four months to four years. All these cases, however, were reported as mild and free from complications. It would appear, therefore, that there is undoubtedly a place for whooping cough prophylaxis.

### SCARLET FEVER

There were 12 notifications of this disease in 1956. This was one more than in 1955, when the lowest figure in 15 years was recorded.

### DYSENTERY

There were 8 cases of sonne dysentery notified in 1956. This contrasts favourably with the 108 in 1955. There were no deaths.

### FOOD POISONING

There were 7 cases of food poisoning notified during 1956. There was one outbreak involving 2 families and 3 persons, which was presumed to be due to coagulase positive staphylococcus. There was an outbreak involving one household and two persons where the cause was not established. There were two single isolated cases, one being due to *Salmonella* Derby; the causal organism in the other was not isolated.

## ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

There were two cases of poliomyelitis notified in 1956. Both occurred in infants of one year of age. Neither of the children had been away from Blyth and it was not possible to trace the source of infection.

## DIPHTHERIA

For the seventh successive year no cases of diphtheria were notified.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47**

### **National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.**

No action was taken during 1956 under the above Acts.

# Notifiable Diseases, 1956—Age Distribution

•	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6—10	11—15	16—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	K.N.	Total
Measles ...	7	9	8	13	8	12	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	2	—	7	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Tuberculosis Non-Pul.	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Pneumonia ...	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	2	3	4	—	15
Whooping Cough ...	13	21	21	29	27	35	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	177
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	6
Tuberculosis Pulm.	1	1	—	—	—	—	8	5	15	6	3	2	5	—	—	46
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	7
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Dysentery ...	—	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	8
Polioomyelitis ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	22	37	33	46	37	54	48	8	21	12	6	6	9	8	—	347

# Infectious Diseases and Age Distribution, 1956

	Scarlet Fever		Whoop- ing Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Diph- theria		Dysen- tery		Meningo- coccal Infection	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non- Paralytic									
Numbers originally notified : Total (all ages) ...	5	7	90	87	2	—	—	—	27	36	—	—	2	6	—	1
Final Numbers after correction : Under 1 year ...	—	—	6	7	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	1
1-2 years ...	—	—	14	7	2	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
2-3 „ ...	—	1	11	10	—	—	—	—	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 „ ...	—	2	9	20	—	—	—	—	4	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-5 „ ...	—	—	14	13	—	—	—	—	3	6	—	—	—	1	—	—
5-9 „ ...	5	2	35	30	—	—	—	—	8	9	—	—	1	1	—	—
10-14 „ ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
25 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	5	7	90	87	2	—	—	—	27	36	—	—	2	6	—	1

	Acute Pneu- monia		Small- pox		Acute Encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para- Typhoid Fever		Erysip- elas		Food Poison- ing	
	M	F	M	F	Infective		Post Infectious									
Numbers originally notified : Total (all ages) ...	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	3	4
Final numbers after correction : Under 5 years ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5-14 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
15-44 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45-64 „ ...	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
65 and over ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	3	4

	Tuberculosis						Other Notifiable Diseases			
	Respira- tory		Menin- ges and C.N.S.		Other		Original		Final	
	M	F	M	F	M	F				
Numbers originally notified : Total (all ages) ...	26	20	1	1	2	2	—	6	—	6
Final numbers after correction: Under 5 years ...	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ...	8	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 „ ...	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-44 „ ...	6	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45-64 „ ...	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	26	20	1	1	2	2	—	6	—	6

Puerperal Pyrexia			
—	6	—	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			
M	F	M	F
—	—	—	—



## Annual Returns for 10 years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis (Pul.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Whooping Cough	Measles	Malaria	Para Typhoid Fever	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Ac. Encephalitis (Infective)	Food Poisoning
1947	29	23	13	50	1	8	—	2	47	11	122	256	1	—	1	—	—	—
1948	89	10	8	32	2	3	—	—	57	19	182	673	—	3	1	—	—	—
1949	39	1	6	27	3	1	—	—	72	12	98	352	—	—	1	—	—	1
1950	44	—	17	58	—	5	5	—	84	8	282	652	1	—	3	1	1	—
1951	57	—	10	54	—	5	1	—	88	2	93	490	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	65	—	10	29	3	2	6	—	96	7	45	346	—	—	1	—	—	24
1953	83	—	8	16	6	1	1	—	62	11	190	747	—	2	—	—	—	5
1954	34	—	10	14	—	3	12	—	44	5	73	50	—	—	1	—	—	12
1955	11	—	11	24	2	2	108	—	69	10	65	853	—	—	3	—	—	8
1956	12	—	2	15	6	1	8	—	46	6	177	63	—	2	2	—	—	7

## CANCER

Type	1956		1955		1954		1953		1952		1951	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All causes ...	42	27	36	35	48	35	33	28	42	35	31	32
	69		71		83		61		77		63	
Bronchogenic (Lung) ...	13	1	13	2	12	3	9	1	6	1	5	1
Stomach ...	6	6	10	7	7	5	13	9	7	6	9	9
Intestine ...	7	6	5	5	8	5	3	2	10	5	2	4
Female Organs ...	—	8	—	11	—	16	—	9	—	14	—	11

There were 69 deaths from Cancer during 1956—a decrease of two from 1955.

# CANCER DEATHS, 1956

## SITE AND AGE DISTRIBUTION

SITE OF DISEASE	MALE						FEMALE						Total Male and Female		
	0—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	Over 65	Total	0—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65		Over 65	Total
Oesophagus	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Floor of Mouth	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Stomach	—	—	—	—	3	3	6	—	—	—	1	1	4	6	12
Large Bowel	—	—	1	—	2	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	11
Rectum	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Gall Bladder and Liver...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	3
Pancreas	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	—	—	5	8	13	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	14
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1
Cervix Uteri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	2
Corpus Uteri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	2
Vulva	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scrotum	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Kidney	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	5
Thyroid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Unspecified	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lymphosarcoma	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Melanoma of Foot	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	—	—	1	1	14	26	42	—	—	3	2	8	14	27	69

## SICK BENEFIT SCHEME

During 1956, 235 workmen lost work through sickness and injury (154 maintenance workers and 81 Direct Labour workers).

Of these 193 attended the Health Department—most cases more than once.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Number of workmen sick	129	197	258	279	296	231	235
Number of days lost by sickness (6-day week) ...	3,672	4,635	7,403	6,836	6,811	5,438	5,425
Number of days lost by sickness (Maintenance Staff) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	3,071	4,030
Number of days lost by sickness (Direct Labour) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2,367	1,395
Number of Maintenance Workers ... ..	—	—	—	—	273	240	278
Number of Direct Labour Workers ... ..	—	—	—	—	214	151	107
Total Persons Employed...	255	440	491	504	487	391	385
Average length of time off sick (days) ... ..	28½	24	28½	25	23	23½	23
Percentage of workmen sick during the year :							
Total ... ..	50%	44.8%	52.5%	55.3%	60.7%	59%	61%
Maintenance ... ..	—	—	—	—	60.8%	52.5%	55.3%
Direct Labour ... ..	—	—	—	—	47.6%	69.5%	75.7%

<i>Number of days off sick</i>		<i>Number of workmen off sick during that time</i>						
		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
1—3 ...	9	15	13	24	22	35	40	
4—7 ...	14	29	32	31	41	17	15	
8—14 ...	26	32	44	56	52	40	41	
15—21 ...	20	35	39	43	49	30	34	
22—28 ...	12	18	22	23	36	24	24	
29—35 ...	13	13	21	19	21	16	15	
36—42 ...	5	9	19	20	14	18	17	
43—49 ...	3	10	8	12	13	14	11	
50—56 ...	5	5	9	13	15	10	5	
57—63 ...	2	7	5	8	9	3	9	
64—70 ...	6	8	7	5	5	3	4	
71—77 ...	5	1	5	3	2	6	8	
78—84 ...	8	3	5	2	4	6	3	
84+ ...	1	11	29	20	13	9	9	
		129	196	258	279	296	231	235

The commonest period of absence was again 1-2 weeks.

The commonest cause for absence was fibrositis and allied rheumatic conditions (lumbago, sciatica, etc.), then injuries.

# LABORATORY SPECIMENS, 1956

## BACTERIOLOGICAL

(The Public Health Laboratory Service, General Hospital,  
Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne).

### A. PATHOLOGICAL.

#### (1) *Throat and Nose swabs.*

Corynebacterium	Diphtheria Present ...	Nil	
	„ Not found ...	1	1
Haemolytic Streptococci	Present ...	1	
	Not found ...	4	5
Coagulase positive Staphylococci	Isolated ...	2	
	Not isolated	4	6
Vincent's Organisms	Not found ...	1	1

#### (2) *Sputum.*

B. Tuberculosis	Present ...	21	
	Not found ...	210	231

#### (3) *Faeces.*

Salmon. Derby	Isolated ...	2	
Salmon. Typhimurium	Isolated ...	4	
Para-Typhoid B.	Isolated ...	13	
Sh. Sonnei	Isolated ...	13	
No Pathogens	Isolated ...	95	127

#### (4) *Urine.*

Specimens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

#### (5) *Blood.*

Specimens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

#### (6) *Other specimens :*

Corned Beef Tin—No Pathogens isolated.  
Sweets —No Pathogens isolated.

### B. WATER, MILK, ETC.

#### (1) *Water Samples.*

(a) Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(b) Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50

#### (2) *Milk Samples.*

##### (a) For Pasteurised Milk :

(1) Methylene Blue Test	...	...	...	...	...	42
(2) Phosphatase Test	...	...	...	...	...	42

#### (3) *Sterility of Milk Bottles.*

(a) Satisfactory.	(b) Fairly Satisfactory	(c) Unsatisfactory	
45	13	14	72

#### (4) *Ice Cream.*

(a) Bacteriological—Methylene Blue	...	...	...	14
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# ANNUAL REPORT, 1956

## Part II—Environmental Hygiene

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have now had the honour of serving you for some ten years and with the approval of the Medical Officer of Health, I should like to review the efforts of the Department during the past decade and to look forward to the programme of environmental health work ahead.

### HOUSING

Housing work has figured to a large degree in our manifold duties and since 1947 we have seen the rehousing and clearance of the Bebside, Cowpen, Cowpen Colliery, Cowpen Square, the South Newsham and the Quayside Slum Clearance Areas; the clearance by means of individual demolition orders of the Phoenix Street, Coomassie Road and Kitty Brewster areas; the rehousing and the subsequent rejuvenation of the Bowes Street, Blue Passages and Waterloo Road areas to become an enhanced and extended shopping centre and the rehousing by means of closing orders of many families living in unsatisfactory circumstances and the conversion of these dwellings to business premises.

The statistics of houses demolished and closed and persons displaced are in themselves revealing, but do not convey the happiness brought to some thousands of individuals by the great improvement in their living conditions.

The total to the end of 1956 is—

YEAR	CLEARANCE AREAS		DEMOLITION ORDERS		CLOSING ORDERS		TOTAL	
	Houses Demolished	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced	Houses	Persons Displaced
1945/50	399	1,875	55	432	1	4	455	2,311
1951	139	339	2	4	10	19	151	362
1952	67	220	76	298	8	36	151	554
1953	112	362	64	194	27	120	203	676
1954	—	—	33	103	37	131	70	234
1955	—	—	22	82	21	81	43	163
1956	109 (Cowpen Colliery)	—	4	22	23	119	136	141
	826	2,796	256	1,135	127	510	1,209	4,441

In addition to the above work the department has carried out investigations on behalf of the Housing Estates Committee of families prior to interview for rehousing and



at the request of individual families who alleged overcrowding, or unsatisfactory housing conditions, and of Corporation houses amounting to some 4,691 houses, which does not take into account inspections of squatters' camps, clearance areas, individual unfit houses, applications for improvement grants, certificates of disrepair and similar duties.

Total inspections in connection with housing are 10,891.

We are now embarked on a further programme of slum clearance and to date have received confirmation of the Seaton Sluice Clearance Areas and submitted representations in respect of the Harper and Marlow Street Clearance Area and numerous individual unfit houses.

### FOOD AND DRUGS

The figures of this work during the past ten years read as follows :—

Abattoir—Meat Inspection	.. .. .	4,335
Inspection of Food Premises, samplings etc.	.. .. .	14,742

The results of these endeavours are to be observed in the township when one considers the changes that have taken place to the food shops. These visual improvements have enhanced customer appeal and the appearance of the principal shopping centres generally, but do not readily show what is to the Health Department of prior importance, namely the improved standard of food preparation and handling in the production section of the premises, such improvements being unseen by the general public.

This work has been achieved, largely without recourse to legal enforcement, by the efforts of your officers, the co-operation of the traders, the support of the Council and the willingness with which the trades have accepted the need for greater hygiene since the inception of the Clean Food Campaign.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

This wide field covers complaints by the general public on a multiplicity of matters relating to disrepair of dwellings, nuisances, dirty premises, drainage, water supplies, keeping of animals, licensed premises, public conveniences, piggeries, spoilbanks, smoke nuisances, offensive accumulations, vacant sites, allotments, dirty families, infectious diseases, disinfestation, rodent destruction, care of mortuary, etc., and the inspection figures for 1947-1956 amount to 40,221.

The figures given in the monthly report under each individual heading can not convey in any way the extent of the work performed, the visits, the inspection of premises, the interrogation of individuals, the obtaining of necessary information as to the cause of complaint, the responsibility for the nuisance and the remedy, owners, agents, the preparation of Committee reports, notices and the following up of outstanding work until the final completion of the task. These cannot be shown by a single figure of so many inspections for a particular purpose, nor does it give an indication of the time spent on varying items when a personal call on a responsible individual may result in the immediate compliance with the request, whereas in many other cases considerable time and effort must be expended with recourse to official persuasion by means of statutory notices to achieve a similar result.

The following brief gleanings of matters appertaining to public health which have received the attention of the Department during the past ten years may be of some interest.

*Spoilbanks.*—Over the years continuous attention has been given to the problem of firing and emanation of fumes from these mountainous deposits which mar the landscape. In conjunction with the Inspector of Alkali, etc. Works, we have gone a long way to minimising the nuisance including the cessation of tipping and the levelling of the New Delaval spoilbank, the virtual cessation of tipping at the Isabella Colliery, the control of combustion within limits at Horton Grange and 1956 saw the commencement of the barging to sea process from the Bates and Isabella Collieries, which process it is to be hoped will see the beginning of the end of further deposits of spoil in the Borough and perhaps eventually the elimination of the present deposits in the years ahead.

*Licensed Premises.*—These have received regular attention and in the course of the years have been very considerably improved by the provision of new sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, provision of new counter and washing units, redecoration and in some instances virtual reconstruction.

*Public Conveniences.*—In 1954, a detailed survey was made of every convenience in the town, the resultant report

and recommendations were accepted in principle and the progress to date bearing in mind the "Credit Squeeze," comprises two new conveniences on the Links and Fore-shore, a new convenience in Broadway, a convenience for children in the Park, the construction by the Blyth Harbour Commission of a new dual convenience in Beach Road, improvement of existing conveniences by the provision in the ladies' sections of washing facilities, hot water and sanitary towel incinerators and proposed improvements to the Ferry Street and reconstruction of the Union Street conveniences.

*Rodent Destruction*.—In 1949 a full-time Rodent Operator was appointed and a start was made on the eradication of pests throughout the township. Over the years a regular service has been given to the sewers, refuse tips, farms, dwellinghouses, allotments and all other forms of residential food and business premises. We are very fortunate in possessing the services of an officer who is not just a "rat catcher" but who commands considerable respect locally as a naturalist which background and very considerable experience has been of benefit to the township, resulting in a marked diminution in the rodent population as borne out by the annual reports. Another mark of confidence in his work is borne out by the continuous contact between himself and the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who have enlisted his services for "specialist" treatments when new methods are being tested in the field.

*Animal Destruction*.—The R.S.P.C.A. provided the Council with an electric lethal chamber in 1949 where previously the painless destruction of cats and dogs had been carried out by chloroform and this twice-weekly service has been amply used and appreciated by the public.

*General*.—Amongst the miscellaneous services performed are the removal and destruction of soiled or disused bedding, the disinfection of houses after infectious disease, the disinfestation of houses for vermin, the clearance of choked drains and the painless destruction of animals. These and other incidental services form part of the daily duties of the Health Department which are accepted as a matter of course, but which collectively add up to the ordinary well-being of the community.

*Total inspections and services during the years 1947-1956.*

Rodent Destruction (since 1950)

Sewers Treated and Manholes Baited	..	..	3,185
Business premises	..	..	694
Refuse Tips	..	..	47
Farms and Allotments, Gardens, Piggeries	..	..	282
Dwellinghouses	..	..	774

Infectious Diseases :

Destruction of bedding	..	..	2,401
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Animals :

Destruction of Cats	..	..	1,439
Dogs	..	..	2,443

Drains :

Cleansed	..	..	742
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Pests :

Houses disinfested	..	..	2,073
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ADMINISTRATION

Much of the routine work of the Department is unseen but nevertheless plays just as important a part in environmental health as does the field work. Daily correspondence must be duly filed and recorded, monthly committee reports prepared, statutory notices prepared and issued, records of visits, inspections and action taken kept up to date, records of infectious diseases constantly maintained and children excluded from school, cards for shops, factories, food premises and the like compiled, housing records dealing with clearance areas, individual unfit houses, overcrowding, the preparation of Land Charges Certificates, interviews and information obtained, rodent destruction records and accounts ; these and many other details form the basis of the routine work by the clerical staff and inspectors.

There is, in addition the Acts, Orders, Regulations, Circulars and Memoranda which must be studied and absorbed so that the correct action may be taken in whatever subject we are dealing with and the following are a few of such matters appertaining to public health since 1947.

Water Act, 1948

Factories Act, 1948.



Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.  
 Housing Act, 1949.  
 Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.  
 Milk & Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.  
 Shops Act, 1950.  
 Food & Drugs (Milk, Dairies & Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.  
 Pet Animals Act, 1951.  
 Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.  
 Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.  
 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.  
 Slaughter of Animals (Pigs) Act, 1953.  
 Slaughterhouses Act, 1954.  
 Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954.  
 Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.  
 Food & Drugs Act, 1955.  
 Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.  
 Housing Subsidies Act, 1956.  
 Clean Air Act, 1956.  
 Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956.

## FUTURE POLICY

Through the years there has arisen an increasing awareness by the public of the need for improved living standards by means of better housing, public health services and the handling and distribution of food and this demand will continue to expand in the future.

In the field of housing much remains to be done to improve the housing conditions in the Borough by the elimination of unfit houses, the prevention of further deterioration of existing properties and the encouragement of the improvement of houses by means of grants from the Local Authority. With this in mind I would refer the Council to the Annual Report for 1952, pages 38 to 41, and the Report of 1955, pages 42 to 44, in which I dealt with the problem of the maintenance and improvement of housing.

With regard to food premises the foundation already laid will go far to providing the basic essentials of having suitable premises adequately equipped and the next stage must be the concentration of effort on continued improvement of the premises and the encouragement by educational means of the necessity for improved food handling techniques by the staffs of the various food premises.



One of the future problems will be the elimination of the major sources of atmospheric pollution, the introduction of smokeless zones and the gradual acceptance over the years of the need to discontinue the wasteful burning of smoke producing fuels.

New duties will arise as a result of Parliamentary legislation and some indication of the scope of these is to be found in the new Rent Bill and The Gowers Report on Health, Welfare and Safety in Non-Industrial Employment.

In conclusion I have taken some figures at random from the Annual Report for 1947 and 1956.

<i>Inspections</i>	1947	1956
Total .. .. .	3,862	9,308
Public Health.. ..	1,984	2,145
Housing .. .. .	283	2,311
Food & Drugs.. ..	423	1,814
Meat Inspection .. ..	181	635

The cost of these services taken from the Financial Estimates for 1957/8 excluding public conveniences which are dealt with by the Borough Engineer's Department, is as follows :—

Requirements            £5,493    =    4.95d.

With a population of 34,470 this is equivalent to 3/3d. per head per annum or  $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per head per week.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. GILL,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936**

### **Part II—Sanitation and Buildings**

#### **REMOVAL OF REFUSE**

Dustbins provided during the year amounted to 139 of which 35 were provided by means of informal action and 104 by service of informal and statutory notices. Inspections and re-inspections in this connection take up considerable time and in addition there are the practical difficulties encountered by the Cleansing Department due to holed or otherwise defective containers and the risk of workmen involved in handling damaged and jagged bins.

In the Annual Report for 1952 I recommended the Council to consider the inauguration of a Municipal Dustbin Service and I would again draw your attention to this so that we may overcome the anomalous position whereby having provided labour, vehicles and refuse tips we may also provide the essential pre-requisite of a proper container to collect the refuse at its source.

## KEEPING OF ANIMALS

Regular servicing of allotments was carried out by the Rodent Officer during the year and there is now little evidence of rat infestation. Complaints were, however, received as to the condition of some of these holdings, particularly with regard to the keeping of animals. A considerable number of allotments are not under cultivation but are used for a variety of purposes such as garages, stables, piggeries, poultry, pigeon and rabbit keeping and in some cases rubbish dumps and are an eyesore. In some cases they are sufficiently removed from dwellinghouses so as not to cause a nuisance which can be classed as prejudicial to health, but might be dealt with under the provisions of the Act relating to buildings constructed of materials which are short-lived or otherwise unsuitable.

## FILTHY OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

Treatment for the eradication of insects pests involved some 367 dwellings.

The principal source of complaint is cockroach infestation due to dampness, lack of sub-floor concrete and adequate ventilation, old and rotted woodwork, etc., and the Health Department provide a disinfection service of gaseous and liquid insecticide, and powder.

In 1951 I drew attention to the increase in the number of complaints regarding wood pests and I would again ask the public to assist the Department and themselves by giving early notification if infestation is suspected.

## PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

During the year the following new public conveniences were constructed :—

1. Ladies' and Gentlemen's convenience—Rear of Miniature Golf Hut, Links and Foreshore.
2. Ladies' and Gentlemen's convenience—Links and Foreshore, Seaton Sluice.

3. Children's convenience—Ridley Park.
4. Ladies' and Gentlemen's convenience—Beach Road.  
(Constructed by Blyth Harbour Commissioners).

These facilities, together with proposed improvements to the Ferry Street and Union Street conveniences, will go far to implement the proposals made in the special survey and report of the Department in 1954, but it is a matter for regret that a few anti-social persons continue to misuse the conveniences to the detriment of the general public which necessitates increased financial outlay by additional attendance.

#### LICENSED PREMISES.

It was not found possible to carry out as many inspections of the licensed premises as in previous years, but one item worthy of note was the reconstruction of the Windmill Inn, Cowpen, following representations to Messrs. J. W. Cameron & Co. Ltd.

The whole interior of the premises was completely renovated with the most modern fitments and a new concert room and bar added. In addition the living quarters were transferred to the first floor to form a compact and modernised flat.

Other improvements in progress at the end of the year included the construction of a new lounge, conveniences and additional renovations to the Sidney Arms, Cowpen, for Messrs. McEwans Ltd.

An omission from the 1955 Annual Report was a reference to the construction of new licensed premises on the Cowpen Estate, known as the Red House Inn for Newcastle Breweries Ltd., following transfer of the licence from the Miners Arms, Newsham, these premises being later converted for use as a Boys' Club.

#### Part III—Nuisances

The principal source of complaint is housing disrepair and out of a total of 2,145 investigations, 1,717 were thus concerned.

There is an increasing tendency by the public to use various open spaces within the town for depositing miscellaneous refuse such as old building materials, mattresses, and other household articles, despite the fact that the Cleansing Department will remove domestic waste without charge on application to the Health Department and publicity regarding this service may have a beneficial effect.

## COLLIERY SPOILBANKS

In consultation with the National Coal Board and H.M. Inspector of Alkali Etc. Works, control and improvement of the spoilbanks was maintained as follows :—

*Horton Grange.*—Deposit of spoil by means of aerial ropeway with more or less continuous combustion which is controlled by water spraying, regular levelling and consolidation of the mounds by bulldozer.

*New Delaval Colliery.*—Following the work of levelling in 1955, there has been little visible evidence of firing with the exception of one or two sporadic outbreaks on exposed faces which are receiving attention and this spoilbank is completely controlled.

*Isabella Colliery.*—The long awaited process of barging spoil to sea after loading on a conveyor system, the installation of which at Bates Colliery cost some £48,000 was commenced during the year and has resulted in the virtual cessation of tipping in the Isabella area. Attention is now being directed to improving the existing heap. The main cone is practically inert and due to extensive levelling and consolidation during former tipping the remaining area is under reasonable control except for isolated combustion on exposed faces. It is hoped that the N.C.B. will undertake the levelling of the cone and spreading of the burnt out material over the area to improve the present unsightly appearance. It is to be expected, however, that the spoilbank will continue to emit noxious fumes for many years unless some method of complete sealing can be evolved or the deposit removed, but in both instances capital cost is the major obstacle. In my report for 1954 I commented on the removal of spoil at Horton for the construction of a disposal plant for open-cast coal and I should again like to draw attention to the possible alternative methods of disposal suggested in the report of 1955.

*Bates Colliery.*—Authorisation was given during the year for limited disposal of refuse near Bates Pit in the event of it not being found possible to convey the refuse to sea during inclement weather. At the end of the year a small amount of refuse had been deposited, but was not causing any nuisance.



## Part IV—Water Supply

The water supply to the Borough is obtained from three sources and the total amount consumed during the year was :—

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Amount Thousands of Gallons consumed</i>
Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co. .. ..	450,398
Tynemouth Corporation .. ..	6,956
Hepscott (Barmoor) .. ..	47,824

*Bacteriological Analysis.*—Fifty samples were taken, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

The method of examination used is the coli-aerogenes count or “ presumptive coliform ” test which enables the approximate number of coliform organisms present in 100 millilitre of the sample to be estimated. The presence of these organisms is indicative of excretal pollution and enable a check to be made on the chlorination efficiency. The standard adopted classifies waters as follows :—

	<i>Presumptive Coliform Count per 100 ml.</i>
Class 1 Highly satisfactory .. ..	less than 1
„ 2 Satisfactory .. ..	1—2
„ 3 Suspicious .. ..	3—10
„ 4 Unsatisfactory .. ..	greater than 10

So far as our results are concerned, forty-eight of the samples tested had a count of Nil and the two remaining samples a count of one which indicates that the water supplied to the Borough is of a high bacteriological purity.

*Chemical Analysis.*—At the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government samples of the three water supplies to the Borough were taken during the year in order to ascertain the fluoride concentration in each source of water utilised for public supply purposes and to provide chemical analyses and the results of these analyses are given in the tables on Pages 53 and 59.

## Part VI—Mortuaries and Postmortem Rooms

The Mortuary was used during the year on 24 occasions, details being :—



<i>Authority</i>	<i>Bodies</i>	<i>Postmortems</i>
Borough of Blyth . . . . .	15	7
Bedlington U.D. Council . . . . .	8	6
River Blyth Port Health Authority	1	—

A member of the staff is responsible for the general cleansing and care of equipment and frequently assists the pathologists during postmortems. These duties are often carried out outside normal working hours as a result of notifications received from the Police.

## Part XI—Tents, Vans and Sheds

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

In 1936 authority was given to the occupier of the Link House Field to allow camps, tents, etc., to be stationed thereon from the 1st April to 30th September in each year until the Council otherwise determined.

In October, 1956, application was received from the present occupier to authorise the use of the site for stationing caravans on a permanent basis in order that owner-occupiers could occupy them on occasional week-ends, weather permitting, and indicating that he did not desire to develop the site as a permanent residential site and undertaking not to do so.

A new set of conditions for the regulation of the site were then prepared and approved by the Council and a licence issued in accordance with Section 269 of the Act.

Further attention was given to unauthorised parking of caravans at Link House Filling Station and Pottery Field, South Newsham, and referred to the County Planning Officer.

### GENERAL MATTERS

Appended are some of the incidental services carried out by the Department during the year:—

No. of houses treated for insect pests . . . . .	367
No. of houses disinfected after infectious disease . . . . .	3
No. of houses disinfected by request . . . . .	17
No. of items of bedding and clothing disinfected by request . . . . .	Nil
No. of items of bedding and clothing destroyed by request . . . . .	521
No. of dogs humanely destroyed . . . . .	235
No. of cats humanely destroyed . . . . .	142
Obstructed drains cleared . . . . .	71

## **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**

### **SHOPS ACT, 1950**

Routine inspections are carried out in connection with the requirements of the above Acts and facilities available are generally satisfactory.

### **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

Regular supervision and treatment of farms, allotments, dwelling houses and business premises, together with sewer treatments was undertaken as shown in the Tables—see pages 57 & 58 and in addition regular survey work of all food and business premises was carried out, the sum of £65 15s. 10d. being charged for treatment of premises other than dwellinghouses. The balance of the cost of these services is then subject to a fifty per cent. grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### **PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951**

The number of licences granted during the year for the keeping and sale of animals was three, one person having discontinued and one new application having been received.

In all cases the conditions under which the animals are kept was found to be satisfactory.

### **RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951**

There are no registered or licensed premises in the Borough, only two traders using filling materials for re-conditioning purposes.

In both cases the materials used satisfy the British Standards Institution Mark Scheme.

In one instance the trader acquired additional premises being certain dwellinghouses the subject of closing orders under the Housing Act, 1936, and is temporarily retaining his former premises for storage only.

### **THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956**

On the 31st December, 1956, certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into operation. The Act gives Local Authorities new powers and duties for the prevention of air pollution and provisions brought into force deal with

the installation of new furnaces, height of chimneys, smoke control areas, pollution from colliery spoilbanks, research and publicity, and the making of building byelaws.

The principal sources of pollution in the Borough arise from domestic chimneys, colliery spoilbanks, shipping and the coaling bunkers, pollution from other industrial sources being only of a minor nature.

The inherent prejudices against the use of smokeless fuels on account of cost and in view of the supply of concessionary coal of a fairly high volatile content to a large mining community, will prove a formidable obstacle to any real progress which might be made in the future, but it may be that a tentative approach to the National Coal Board and the users might result in an amicable solution being found.

A number of complaints of smoke emission were received during the year and these were dealt with without recourse to formal action.

### **FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1955**

Since 1938 the powers and duties of a Local Authority in relation to food and drugs have been contained in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and a number of Acts and Orders dealing inter alia with milk, slaughter-houses and for purposes incidental to food hygiene.

On the 1st January, 1956, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, came into operation, repealing the 1938 and 1954 Acts, the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and certain other enactments relating to slaughter-houses and knackers yards.

By this Act powers were conferred on the Ministers to make Regulations for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the sale of food for human consumption, or the importation, preparation, transport, storage, packaging, wrapping, exposure for sale, service or delivery of food intended for sale or sold for human consumption. On the 1st January, 1956, the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation dealing with hygienic practices in connection with food handling, with the exception of certain provisions dealing with premises or equipment which came into operation six months later.

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Information obtained regarding the provision of refrigeration facilities to shop and manufacturing premises reveal that there is a growing acceptance by the food traders of the need for adequate refrigeration of meat and other perishable products and the facilities available to date are:—

Freezer Conservators	..	..	..	51
Refrigerators ..	..	..	..	67
Cold Rooms ..	..	..	..	27
Refrigerated display cabinets and counters				14

I have no doubt that as further inspections are carried out it will be found that additional facilities have been installed.

One point that was drawn to my attention is that there was a tendency on the part of some members of the public to inspect the ready cut products in refrigerated display cabinets and then to ask for a similar product to be freshly cut. This is a matter of personal choice but does not encourage the trader to invest in what can be very expensive refrigeration equipment.

Despite the work which has been carried out by the Department during the past years in the improvement of food premises by means of the clean food campaign and continued inspections and advice, a fresh approach was felt to be necessary to secure compliance with the new standards laid down and with this in view a start was made on a detailed survey of all food premises in the Borough. At the end of the year this survey was not complete nor was it found possible to make re-inspections to report progress owing to the time spent on progressive inspections, interviews and correspondence, but it was obvious from general information and visual evidence that the food traders were making every effort to comply with the Regulations and that further considerable improvements were being carried out to premises, equipment and fittings.

It is hoped that the new survey will be completed during the current year and after re-inspection a detailed report on progress made will be included in the 1957 report.

### FOOD PREMISES

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the following information is given relating to duties under the Food and Drugs Act.



*Type*—The food premises in the Borough are as follows :—

Bakehouses	..	14	Preserved Food	..	12
Confectionery Shops	..	23	Ice Cream M'facturers		4
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	..	14	Food Manufacturers	..	4
Butchers	..	24	Food Warehouses	..	3
Fish Fryers	..	18	Wet Fish	..	4
General Dealers	..	77	Canteens	..	15
Grocery & Provisions		50	Hotels	..	4
Greengrocery	..	15	Dairies	..	4
Licensed Premises	..	43	Off Licences	..	6
Club Premises	..	14	Restaurants, & Snack Bars	..	11
a total of 359.					

## REGISTRATIONS

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Act are as follows :—

Bakehouses	..	14	
Butchers	..	26	
Cooked Meats	..	9	
Fish Fryers	..	21	—of which 4 have gone out of business.
Ice Cream M'facturers		4	
Ice Cream Retailers	..	94	

The undermentioned premises ceased to be used for the purpose for which they were registered and have been removed from the register.

Cooked Meat Manufacturers	..	1
Ice Cream Manufacturers	..	1

## INSPECTIONS

The total number of inspections of food premises was 1,291 (excluding inspection of meat), details of which are given in the schedule of work carried out on pages 61 & 62.



## MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The details of dairies registered, distributors of milk and licences under the Milk & Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations is as under.

Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Distributors (in respect of 102 premises)	..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Licences—Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Distributors removed from the register during the year numbered 4.

*Supply.*—The milk supply to the Borough remains the same as before, the two principal suppliers of pasteurised milk being the Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., and Coast Creameries Ltd., together with a supply of sterilised milk from the Co-operative Society Ltd., and the Newcastle Model Milk Co. Ltd. As the Borough is a “Prescribed Area” by an Order made under the Regulations, only Designated Milks are retailed, all of which are either pasteurised or sterilised, only a very small quantity of raw Tuberculin Tested milk being sold.

*Milk Bottle Sterility.*—Out of a total of 72 milk bottles submitted for examination, 14 were found to be unsatisfactory but liaison between the Dairy and the Department resulted in an improvement with special tests yielding an exceptionally low bacterial count.

*Bacteriological Analysis*—See page 54.

*Equipment.*—Following the installation of a new rotary bottle washing plant at the Co-operative Society’s dairy, further improvements were made by the installation of a new cooling plant of up-to-date design.

## ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947-1952

Owing to the inclement weather difficulty was experienced in obtaining an adequate number of samples, the local manufacturers restricting their production to the lessened demand, but results obtained showed an improvement in the standard, with only one sample falling within Grade 3 and one within Grade 4. Inspection and advice resulted in the Grade 4 sample being much improved.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT REGULATIONS)

*Meat Inspection.*—Slaughtering took place on 264 days during 1956, necessitating 635 visits to the abattoir by the Inspectors.

*Slaughtering.*—Details of slaughtering, inspections and overtime worked are given below.

### Meat Inspections 1956

Month	Bulls	Bull- ocks	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total 1956	Total 1955
January ...	3	94	55	6	2	471	319	950	811
February ...	3	81	53	6	2	388	304	837	842
March ...	2	87	54	6	4	317	289	759	898
April ...	—	90	50	7	8	153	314	622	715
May ...	1	106	43	5	—	117	263	535	731
June ...	1	68	61	5	1	201	189	526	748
July ...	—	50	115	3	4	402	210	784	615
August ...	—	72	91	6	4	546	237	956	907
September ...	—	66	76	4	—	552	222	920	906
October ...	1	74	110	6	4	645	292	1132	1056
November ...	—	65	102	6	2	513	328	1016	978
December ...	—	64	96	3	—	397	431	991	921
Totals ...	11	917	906	63	31	4702	3398	10028	
1928									
Totals 1955 ...	4	880	708	115	26	4271	4124		10128
1733									

It was found necessary to condemn the following carcasses, flesh and organs :—

		Weight in lbs. of Carcase	Weight in lbs. of Offal	Total Weight in lbs.
On account of :				
Generalised Tuberculosis	Cow No. 1	656	140	796
" "	Heifer No. 1	816	80	896
Septicaemia	Heifer No. 2	184	60	244
Traumatic Septicaemia and Oedema	Bullock No. 1	308	60	368
Immaturity	Calves 2	36	12	48
		2000	352	2352
Emaciation and Oedema	Sheep 8			298
Parasitic	Sheep 2			70
				368
Miliary Tuberculosis	Sow No. 1	212	50	262
Chronic Swine Erysipelas	Sow No. 2	220	30	250
Septicaemia	Sow No. 3	198	40	238
Swine Fever	Sow No. 4	400	70	470
Internal Haemorrhage	Sow No. 5	410	65	475
		1440	255	1695

The following part carcasses and organs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption :

	No.	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Cattle : Part carcasses and/or organs	349	4765
Sheep Part carcasses and/or organs	67	176
Pigs : Part carcasses and/or organs	183	2807
Beef : Hindquarters	2	305
Trimming		111
Mutton : Loin	1	8
Shoulder	1	15
Pigs Hindquarters	2	148
Legs of Pork	2	30
Pork Trimmings		8
		<hr/>
		8373
		<hr/>

### Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937

The following imported meats were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

	<i>No. of Tins</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Corned Beef	243	633 $\frac{3}{4}$
Corned Mutton	3	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Beef—Hindquarter	1	253

The following imported carcass was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

<i>On account of</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Black Spot Mould—Canterbury Lamb	1	35

# Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

## Form D.S. 97727/1

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	1,834	63	31	4,702	3,398
Number inspected ... ..	1,834	63	31	4,702	3,398
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	2	—	2	10	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	209	2	1	60	99
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... ..	11.5	3.2	9.7	1.5	3.03
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	1	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	69	5	—	—	83
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ..	3.7	9.5	—	—	2.5
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

## Slaughterhouse, 1956

		Slaughtering		Overtime		Bank		Inspection
		Days	Days	Hours	Saturdays	Sundays	Holidays	Visits
January	...	22	14	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	51
February	...	20	12	13	—	—	—	49
March	...	22	11	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	—	—	58
April	...	21	11	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	1	50
May	...	22	9	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	1	49
June	...	22	10	12	1	—	—	50
July	...	22	13	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	1	—	50
August	...	24	16	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	—	1	59
September	...	21	11	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	—	—	42
October	...	23	13	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—	53
November	...	20	10	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	65
December	...	25	19	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	3	—	59
		264	149	174 $\frac{3}{4}$	7	4	3	635



*Hours of Slaughtering.*—Attention is drawn to the number of occasions on which it was necessary for your inspectors to work overtime in order to obtain a 100% inspection service. The present Public Health (Meat Regulations) do not give control over the hours of slaughtering and some amendment is long overdue. The overtime worked averages just over an hour per day and the financial payment made recompenses the officers but little for the sacrifice of an appreciable part of their leisure time, particularly during the evenings, when it is necessary to return to the abattoir at any time between the hours of 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. It is also worthy of note that slaughtering took place on three Bank Holidays, viz., Easter Monday, Whit Monday and August Monday, necessitating attendance by an Inspector.

## ANIMAL HEALTH

Although there was a decrease of 100 against the 1955 figures in the number of animals slaughtered, there was an increase of 195 in the number of cattle.

Total carcases and organs condemned amounted to one cow, two heifers, one bullock, two calves, five sows and ten sheep, a total of twenty-one carcases against the 1955 figure of twelve. This increase is partially due to the additional quantity of animals slaughtered for manufacturing purposes and does not reflect on the generally high standard of butcher's meat supplied.

## CONDEMNED MEAT

The total weight of carcases, carcase meat and organs found to be unsound was 5 tons 14 cwts. and 20 lbs., the method of disposal being collection not less than twice weekly by Messrs. Tyneside Butchers By-Products Ltd., who recover animal feeding stuffs, fertilisers, glues, fats and chemicals.

## TRANSPORT AND HANDLING

It was found necessary on two occasions to require internal redecoration of meat transport vehicles and on one occasion for the provision of clean, washable head coverings and overalls.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS

The details of imported meat products condemned as unsound are given on Page 44.



## DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS AND ORDERS

Notice (Form A) defining an infected place under the Swine Fever Order of 1938 was received on the 24th May, 1956, relating to two fifteen-week old boars which died at the Watermill Piggery, Holywell Dene, Seaton Sluice, within the Borough boundary and were suspected to have suffered from Swine Fever, but this was not confirmed.

On the 23rd November, 1956, a number of pigs and sows were brought into the Blyth Abattoir from Gateshead Mart and on the 27th November, one sow died. Inspection by the Veterinary Surgeon of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food revealed the presence of Swine Fever lesions which was later confirmed.

The carcase was disposed of by burying six feet deep with a liberal coating of lime and the contaminated lairage and pig slaughterhall at the Abattoir were duly disinfected.

## OTHER FOODS

Details of the quantities of canned goods and other foods surrendered and destroyed are given on page 54.

The method of disposal is by removal to the corporation tip and covering with refuse.

## HOUSING

### Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

#### SLUM CLEARANCE

Following approval by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in August, 1955, of proposals under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a commencement was made on the Borough's five year programme, the position at the end of the year being :—

#### 1. *Harper Street and Marlow Street Clearance Area No. 1*

A representation dated 19th April, 1956, was submitted by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the above area relating to some 35 houses, but decision was deferred pending the report of the District Valuer on the operation of the Slum Clearance (Compensation) Act, 1956.

## 2. *Seaton Sluice Areas*

Representations dated the 19th day of April, 1956, were submitted by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of proposed Clearance Areas relating to Fountain Head Cottages, Seaton Village, Avenue Row, Silver Hill No. 1 and Silver Hill No. 2, dealing with some 39 dwellinghouses and on the 13th September, 1956, the Council made Clearance Orders for submission for confirmation by the Minister. These Orders were duly confirmed on the 4th April, 1957.

### INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

*Representations.*—During 1956 the following representations were submitted :

	Section 9 Housing Act, 1936	1
Demolition Orders	„ 11 „ „ „	37
Closing Orders	„ 12 „ „ „	23

*Orders Confirmed and Persons Rehoused.*—

	Houses	Persons	Families
Section 11 Housing Act, 1936	.. 4	22	6
Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	.. .. 11	50	14
Section 12 Housing Act, 1936	.. 12	69	15
	—	—	—
	27	141	35
	==	==	==

### CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Two applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair and were both approved.

Two Certificates of Disrepair were issued in 1956 in respect of 1955 applications and Revocation Certificates were later issued, the necessary works having been completed.

Part II of the Act dealing with the issue and revocation of Certificates of Disrepair to enable a rent increase to be made for a dwellinghouse in good repair is being used only rarely so far as the Borough is concerned, but there are still twelve Certificates of Disrepair outstanding where the Owners have either not proceeded with the proposed rent increase or have reached amicable settlement with the tenant and have not applied for revocation. The result of this is that these Certificates are still shown as outstanding on the Register of Land Charges and will continue to do so until applications for revocation are received and approved.

## Housing Act, 1949

### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The position with regard to these is shown on page 51.

In spite of every assistance given to would be applicants, the total response in over two years of endeavour has been very poor, only EIGHT private houses being improved.

The greatest single factor for this has been the inability of the applicants to have the desired work carried out at anything approaching the cost approved by the Council and in consultation with the Borough Engineer it has been decided to try a new approach to this problem by asking for not less than two tenders, together with specification of work, to be submitted when the application is made, and subject to deletion of luxury or overpriced items to recommend to the Council the acceptance of the lowest tender.

By this more realistic approach to Contractors prices it is hoped to greatly encourage the improvement of houses in the Borough.

*Isabella Colliery.*—At the time of preparation of this report, the proposals for the improvement of 180 houses at Isabella Colliery on behalf of the National Coal Board are well advanced and it is hoped that during 1957 the final application will be submitted.

*The Delaval Estate.*—Applications are pending for the improvement of the remaining dwellings in the Seaton Sluice area which, if approved, should result in the whole of this area containing dwellings with all modern facilities after demolition of the Slum Clearance Orders.

### HOUSING SUBSIDIES ACT, 1956

*Dwellings to Replace Slums.*—From the 3rd November, 1955, the date of the introduction of the Bill, new subsidies are payable for houses provided by local authorities or housing associations for the purpose of slum clearance or redevelopment and the necessary Certificates of Displacement are being prepared and submitted to the Town Clerk and Borough Treasurer.

## SLUM CLEARANCE (COMPENSATION) ACT, 1956.

This Act, which came into operation on the 2nd August, 1956, provides, subject to certain conditions, for payments to be made to Owner-Occupiers of houses bought between the 1st September, 1939, and the 12th December, 1955, and business occupiers of premises with a freehold or appropriate leasehold interest, in the event of compulsory purchase, clearance or demolition of the property.

Certain proposed slum clearance areas in the Borough contain premises coming within this category, which will require the attention of the Council before approval to proceed is given.

# HOUSING ACT, 1949

## Improvement Grants

YEAR	PROPERTIES No. Surveyed	APPLICATIONS			COST			WITHDRAWN AFTER APPROVAL		COMPLETED	
		Not Proceeding	Refused	Approved	Estimate	Approved	Grant	Number	Grants	Number	Grants
1955	54	26	5	23	£ 10,161	£ 6,774	£ 3,377	10	£ 2,121	7	£ 966
1956	25	20	Nil	4 For 5 Properties	2,267	1,608	803	Nil	Nil	1	160
1956 Pending	24 For 180 Houses Isabella Colliery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	103	46	5	27	12,428	8,382	4,180	10	2,121	8	1,126



# HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for the year ended 31st December, 1956

## A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

I Clearance Areas (Housing Act 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)					Houses Demolished		Displaced during	
					Unfit	Others	Present Quarter	
							Persons	Families
(1) Land coloured pink and pink hatched yellow ... ..					109	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Land coloured grey ... ..								
Not in Clearance Areas.								
(3) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section II, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..					4	—	22	6
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED						No.		
(4) Under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936 and Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2), Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1953 ... ..						11	50	14
(5) Under Section 3 (1) and 3 (2), Housing Act, 1949 ... ..						Nil	Nil	Nil
(6) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 ... ..						12	69	15

## C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(7) After informal action by local authority ...	116	
(8) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts ... ..	101	Nil
(b) Housing Act, 1936 ... ..	Nil	Nil
(9) Under Section 5, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 ... ..	Nil	

## D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)

	Number of houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
<i>Position at end of quarter</i>	(1)	(2)
(10) Retained for temporary accommodation :		
(a) under Section 2 ... ..	Nil	Nil
(b) Under Section 3 ... ..	Nil	Nil
(c) Under Section 4 ... ..	Nil	Nil
(11) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 6 ... ..	Nil	

## E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

	Number of houses (1)	Occupants of houses in col. (1)	
		Number of persons (2)	Number of families (3)
(12) Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders, or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the quarter ...	Nil	Nil	Nil

## HOUSING REPORT, 1956

### Houses completed in 1956

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	...	...	...	...	131
Contractors	...	...	...	...	41

### Housing Progress, 31st December, 1956

Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour	...	...	...	...	36
Contractors	...	...	...	...	24
Houses approved by Ministry of Housing but not commenced 31st December, 1956	...	...	...	...	80
Houses completed Post-War Traditional	...	...	...	...	1908
Permanent houses completed by Private Enterprise, 1956...	...	...	...	...	8

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

### Water Sampling

The following water samples were taken during the year for analysis :—

#### CHEMICAL

	<i>Name of Source</i>	<i>Nature of Source</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
(1)	Newcastle Water from tap	37 Bondicar Terrace, Blyth	1
(2)	Water from sub-floor	37 Bondicar Terrace, Blyth	1
(3)	Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co.	Standpipe from mains supply, Bebside	1
(4)	Tynemouth County Borough from Fonthurn Reservoir and Newcastle & Gateshead water mixed	Tap from mains supply, Fountain Head Cafe, Seaton Sluice, Blyth	1
(5)	Barmoor Pit, Hepscott	Inlet pipe to Bebside Water works	1

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory
(1) Newcastle & Gateshead Water	13	13
(2) Hepscott Water before chlorination	12	12
(3) Mixed Hepscott and Newcastle water after chlorination	13	13
(4) Newcastle and Tynemouth Water	12	12
	50	50

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1955

## Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

### DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN, 1956

Pasteurised Milk from Producer/Retailer inside the Borough.

METHYLENE BLUE		PHOSPHATASE TEST		Total Samples
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
By Borough 10	Nil	10	Nil	20
By County Council 32	Nil	32	Nil	64

### Examination of Milk Bottles for Sterility.

Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
45	13	14	72

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1955

### Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found in the course of inspection to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed :—

	Tins	lbs.	Miscellaneous
Chicken ... ..	26		
Cereals ... ..		22	
Cheese ... ..	14	52½	176 pieces
Fish ... ..	184		
Fruit ... ..	1826	178½	
Fats ... ..	2	28	
Milk ... ..	929		
Meat ... ..	823	148½	6 Chicklettes
Preserves, Puddings, etc. ... ..	24		
Soups ... ..	152		
Salads, Spreads, etc. ... ..	49		
Vegetables ... ..	2119		
Miscellaneous ... ..		Cake 12 Sweets 52	73

# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948**

Form 572 (Revised)

## **Part I of the Act**

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Number of		
		Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	20	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	111	39	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' Premises)	2	2	—	—
Total ...	133	44	1	—

2. Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	To H.M. In-spector. (4)	By H.M. In-spector. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2			
Overcrowding (S.2) ...					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...					
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	1	1			
(c) Not separate for Sexes...					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...					
Total ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

# Factories, 1956

	Mechanical Power.	No Mechanical Power.
Bakeries ... ..	14	—
Blacksmith ... ..	1	—
Boiler Scaling ... ..	1	—
Boot and Shoe Repairers ... ..	5	—
Cabinet Making ... ..	—	1
Car Spraying and Coach Work ... ..	4	—
Clothing Alterations ... ..	—	4
Clothing Repairs ... ..	—	1
Clothing Manufacturers ... ..	6	—
Coppersmiths ... ..	1	—
Cooked Fish Preparations ... ..	1	—
Cooked Meat Products and Sausage ... ..	11	—
Corn Grinders ... ..	1	—
Dairies ... ..	1	—
Dry Cleaners ... ..	2	—
Electrical Engineers ... ..	1	—
Electro Plating ... ..	1	—
Engineering ... ..	4	—
Foundry ... ..	2	—
Garage and Battery Charging ... ..	15	—
Gas Works ... ..	1	—
Ice-Cream Manufacturers... ..	6	—
Joinery, Stone-crushing, Est. ... ..	8	4
Marine Store and Timber ... ..	1	—
Plastics ... ..	1	—
Plumbers ... ..	1	1
Polishing ... ..	—	2
Potato Crisps ... ..	1	—
Printing ... ..	3	—
Radio and Electrical Repairs ... ..	—	4
Saddlery and Harness ... ..	—	1
Sculptor ... ..	1	—
Ship Building and Repairs ... ..	1	—
Sheet Metal and Welding ... ..	1	—
Sign Writing ... ..	—	1
Slaters and Tilers ... ..	—	1
Soft Drinks and Bottling ... ..	1	—
Spring Mattresses ... ..	1	—
Sugar Confectionery ... ..	1	—
Timber Impregnation ... ..	1	—
Timber Merchants ... ..	6	—
Transformer Stations ... ..	1	—
Tyre Retreading ... ..	1	—
Upholstery ... ..	2	—
Weaving ... ..	1	—
	111	20



**Part VIII of the Act**  
**Outwork**  
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c) (1)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (2)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (3)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. (4)	Notices served. (5)	Prosecutions. (6)
Wearing apparel making, etc. ...	13	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

During 1956 the following treatments were carried out by the Rodent Officer.

	No.	Baits laid	Traps laid	Ozs. Poison bait taken	No. of Bodies		Est. Kill Rats	No. of Visits
					Rats	Mice		
Dwelling Houses ... ..	101	502	7	299	3	46	27	234
Bakeries ... ..	4	38	7	21	—	7	—	14
Council Property ... ..	10	226	3	86	11	29	55	32
Warehouses ... ..	6	115	3	79½	2	27	3	22
Schools ... ..	3	43	—	19	—	3	—	8
Food Shops ... ..	20	232	—	121	—	29	—	55
Other Shops ... ..	6	83	—	34	—	10	—	22
Canteens, Etc. ... ..	4	46	—	43	—	19	—	11
Hotels and Public Houses	5	50	—	42	—	14	2	14
Piggeries ... ..	4	12	—	100	12	—	24	15
Allotments, Gardens, Etc.	18	53	1	253	24	3	69	60
Farm Buildings, Etc. ...	11	276	—	533	57	66	154	38
Shipyard ... ..	1	160	—	33	9	—	62	7
Garages, Cinemas, Etc. ...	10	139	—	122	6	9	31	33
Refuse Tips ... ..	12	856	7	283½	145	—	493	56
Reservoir ... ..	1	—	Gastubes 15	—	—	—	—	2
Sewers ... ..	—	254	Gastubes —	49½	5	—	124	514 Manholes
	216	3085	21 Traps 22 Gastubes	2118½	274	262	1044	623 Visits 514 Manholes

In addition to the above treatments the following surveys were carried out.

Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural Premises	Business Premises
74	31	104	564

# PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1957

Form PDP/R7

		Type of Property				
		Non-Agricultural				Agricultural
		Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (including business premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)	
I.	No. of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) ... ..	30	10,460	1,234	11,724	34
II.	No. of properties inspected as a result of:—					
	(a) Notification ... ..	2	133	45	180	4
	(b) Survey under the Act ...	28	40	534	602	30
	(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	—	3,989	655	4,644	—
III.	Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available) ...	76	173	913	1,162	106
IV.	No. of properties inspected (in Sec. II) which were found to be infested by:—					
	(a) Rats { Major ... ..	3	—	3	6	5
	{ Minor ... ..	2	17	11	30	4
	(b) Mice { Major ... ..	1	—	3	4	6
	{ Minor ... ..	4	123	48	175	—
V.	No. of infested properties (In Sec. IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given in Sec. IV) ...	10	140	65	215	13*
VI.	Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments (To be completed only if figures are readily available) ...	21	143	69	233	16
VII.	No. of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:—					
	(a) Treatment ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(b) Structural Work (i.e., proofing) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
VIII.	No. of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX.	Legal Proceedings ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
X.	No. of “Block ” control schemes carried out ...	3	4	4	11	1

\* Two Farms treated by Ag. Ex. Committee.

# ANALYSIS OF WATER. Chemical.

			NAME OF SOURCE		
			Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	Barmoor Pit; Hepscott.	Tynemouth C.B. from Fontburn Reservoir and Newcastle and Gateshead mixed. Taken from Fountain Head Cafe, Seaton Sluice.
			Taken from stand pipe at Front Street, Bebside.	Taken from inlet pipe at Bebside Water Works.	
(a) <i>Physical Examination</i>	Temperature at source	...	° C. Pale Yellow	° C. Almost colourless	° C. Deep brownish yellow
	Colour	...	Clear	Clear	Clear
	Appearance	...	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
	Taste	...	None	None	None
	Smell	...	...	...	...
(b) <i>General Chemical Examination</i>	Reaction, pH	...	7.0	7.0	7.0
	Free Carbon Dioxide, as CO <sub>2</sub>	...	4.4 parts per million	6.6 parts per million	None parts per million
	Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N	...	None	None	Trace
	Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N	...	0.03	None	0.06
	Nitrous Nitrogen, as N	...	0.02	None	None
	Nitric Nitrogen, as N	...	0.30	Trace	0.20
	Hardness (State test used—E.D.T.A.) as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	...	...	...	...
	Temporary	...	75.0	242.0	55.0
	Permanent	...	37.0	None	17.0
	Pernanganate figure (4 hours 80° F.) as O	...	2.5	0.7	13.1
(c) <i>Mineral Analysis</i>	Alkalinity, as Ca CO <sub>3</sub>	...	75.0	275.0	55.0
	Total Solids	...	198.0	415.0	126.0
	Calcium, as Ca	...	33.9	56.8	17.8
	Magnesium, as Mg	...	6.6	24.3	6.7
	Sodium, as Na	...	8.5	46.8	6.6
	Carbonate, as CO <sub>3</sub>	...	45.0	165.0	33.0
	Chloride, as Cl	...	12.4	30.2	16.0
	Sulphate, as SO <sub>4</sub>	...	35.0	35.0	8.2
	Nitrate, as NO <sub>3</sub>	...	1.3	Trace	0.9
	Iron	...	0.3	0.1	0.6
	Fluoride as F	...	0.1	0.2	0.1
		...	...	...	...

# SANITARY SECTION—Details of Inspections

Number of inspections made during the year, 1956		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(a) <i>Public Health Act, 1936.</i>															
Inspections following complaints—															
General	...	26	23	31	46	97	99	36	40	46	34	40	27	545	
Re-inspections re Outstanding Notices	...	95	53	86	86	89	177	31	132	111	118	107	87	1172	
Dirty or Verminous Premises	...	2	9	11	6	17	10	9	6	9	9	7	2	97	
Drainage	...	2	7	13	8	13	23	14	12	11	9	10	12	134	
Keeping of Animals	...	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	1	2	2	—	12	
Licensed Premises	...	—	1	1	4	8	—	2	1	—	—	—	4	21	
Moveable Dwellings	...	1	1	1	—	—	14	2	1	4	12	1	—	37	
Offensive Trades	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Piggeries	...	1	—	8	7	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	
Places of Public Entertainment	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	6	
Spoilbanks	...	4	—	4	1	3	6	—	—	3	—	—	—	21	
Water Supplies	...	—	1	5	1	2	4	3	—	2	—	—	—	18	
Workplaces	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Families under Supervision	...	—	—	1	3	3	4	7	1	—	6	5	2	32	
Smoke Nuisances	...	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	
Offensive Accumulations	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Sanitary Conveniences	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	2	8	
Marine Stores	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Refuse Tips	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	5	
Mortuary	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Vacant Sites	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
														2145	2145

Number of inspections made during the year, 1956												Grand Total
Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
<b>(b) Housing Act, 1936.</b>												
Investigations re Overcrowding	3	6	14	19	22	16	19	10	11	30	2	160
Houses in Clearance Areas	27	—	17	1	—	1	1	17	10	5	—	79
Squatters' Camps	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	22	7	34
Corporation Houses	9	129	9	5	37	12	2	7	13	12	6	251
Inspections prior to Estates Com'ttee.	56	20	30	12	63	22	4	9	10	48	1	277
Housing Survey	59	108	50	22	75	24	21	54	12	77	1	515
Interviews re Housing—General	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
PART II HOUSING ACT, 1936:												
Section 9—Repairs	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	—	6
Section 11—Demolition Orders	1	7	—	8	11	3	4	10	9	12	9	77
Section 12—Closing Orders	4	5	2	7	3	2	7	20	19	15	6	98
PART III HOUSING ACT, 1936:												
Proposed Clearance Areas	—	111	6	49	51	—	—	22	102	246	—	587
Housing Act, 1949:												
Applications re Improvement Grants	8	9	—	5	3	—	13	40	1	3	1	86
Interviews re Improvement Grants	30	10	17	5	9	7	6	6	4	9	1	114
RENT AND REPAIRS ACT, 1954:												
Applications for Cert. of Disrepair	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	5
Interviews re Cert. of Disrepair	—	4	1	3	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	13
<b>(c) Factories Act, 1937.</b>												4456
Mechanical Power	2	—	—	7	3	9	3	3	6	3	3	2311
No Mechanical Power...	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	39
<b>(d) Shops Act, 1950.</b>												4498
Sanitary and other arrangements in Shops	14	4	3	8	11	29	35	10	41	14	25	269
<b>(e) Pests Act, 1948.</b>												4767
Allotments	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
Council Properties	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Other Properties	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
												10
												4777



Number of inspections made during the year, 1956		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total	
(f) <i>Pet Animals Act, 1951.</i> Applications re renewal of Licence ... Investigations made ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	4787	
	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	—	6		
(g) <i>Infectious Diseases (Notifications) Acts</i> Investigations made ...	...	15	52	22	12	21	23	12	11	14	25	8	16	231	5018	
(h) <i>Food and Drugs Act, 1938-1955</i> Abattoir—Meat Inspection ... Examination of Unsound Foodstuffs Bakehouses ... Bakery and Confectionery Shops Butchers' Shops ... Fish and Chip Shops ... General Dealer Shops ... Grocery and Provisions Shops ... Greengrocery Shops ... Preserved Food Shops ... Wet Fish Shops ... Food Manufacturing Premises Ice-Cream Premises (a) Manufacturing ... (b) Retail ... Restaurant and Cafes ... Market Stalls ... Food Vehicles ... Canteens ... Interviews ...	...	51	49	58	50	49	50	50	59	42	53	65	59	635	6832	
	...	6	4	12	10	6	8	9	9	8	12	17	9	110		
	...	5	1	—	—	2	5	2	4	3	1	1	1	25		
	...	1	1	2	3	1	9	14	7	3	4	8	2	55		
	...	1	3	1	3	4	10	24	6	5	5	4	12	73		
	...	3	3	—	5	5	6	7	1	1	2	1	2	36		
	...	6	4	2	2	1	1	7	—	1	13	8	17	62		
	...	4	6	6	5	2	19	23	15	4	21	4	8	117		
	...	1	1	—	—	—	2	6	4	2	4	1	—	19		
	...	2	—	—	4	2	4	3	3	2	2	1	—	25		
	...	—	—	2	—	—	1	5	—	4	1	3	—	16		
	...	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	—	—	1	—	3	11		
	...	—	—	—	4	3	1	5	5	—	3	—	—	16		
	...	—	—	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	—	6	1	—		19
	...	3	3	—	5	5	6	8	2	3	—	—	—	3		38
	(i) <i>Milk and Dairies Orders</i> Dairies and Equipment Heat Treatment Plant Milk Shops	...	11	4	13	33	44	41	39	36	21	19	21	25		307
...		6	16	13	8	20	13	15	—	7	11	10	44	163		
...		1	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	1	1	3	1	12		
...		—	—	—	—	19	21	—	7	5	2	5	11	70		
...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
		—	—	—	5	1	1	1	2	—	—	3	5	18	6832	
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	4		
		8	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	63	8	90		
														112	6944	

Number of inspections made during the year, 1956		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(j) <i>Miscellaneous</i>	Inspections ... ..	9	8	8	14	12	18	16	11	17	5	21	8	147	8711
	Interviews ... ..	72	43	40	68	58	60	52	68	52	54	47	27	641	
	No. of houses treated for the Eradica- tion of Insect Pests ... ..	16	12	17	28	61	40	42	41	26	36	30	18	367	
	No. of Houses disinfected after Infec- tious Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	
	No. of Houses disinfected at request of Occupier ... ..	6	1	2	—	1	1	—	2	1	1	—	2	17	
	No. of items of Bedding, Clothing, etc. Destroyed by Request ... ..	25	32	24	55	73	44	65	32	35	38	46	52	521	
	Choked drains cleared ... ..	4	9	5	6	5	9	3	4	4	7	6	9	71	
														1767	
<i>Sampling : Chemical</i>		2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	8880
(a) Water ... ..		2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Bacteriological</i>		2	2	2	1	2	—	—	2	2	2	2	2	19	
(a) Milk ... ..		6	6	6	6	6	—	6	6	6	6	6	18	78	
(b) Milk Bottles ... ..		4	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	50	
(c) Water ... ..		—	—	—	3	3	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	14	
(d) Ice-Cream ... ..		—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	
(e) Other Foods ... ..		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
														169	
<i>No. of visits in connection with :</i>		1	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	1	3	13	8962
(a) Milk samples ... ..		6	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	7	4	4	55	
(b) Water samples ... ..		—	—	—	3	3	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	14	
(c) Ice-Cream samples ... ..		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
														82	
<i>No. of Informal Notices served</i>		11	9	6	18	26	59	16	—	13	12	5	7	182	9308
<i>No. of Statutory Notices served</i>		15	8	2	—	13	22	22	—	31	26	6	18	164	
														346	





